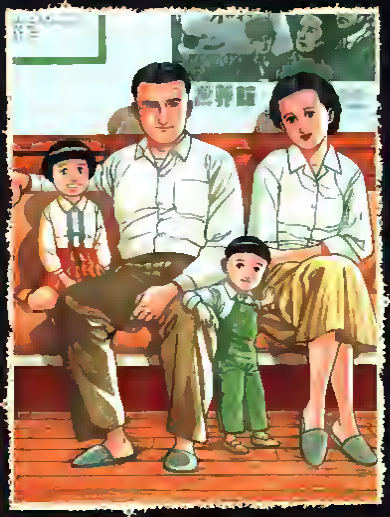
Jiro Taniguchi
presenta

PLANETA DEAGOSTINI COMICS

EL ALMANAQUE DE MI PADRE



Libro 1

Aquel suelo inundado de sol

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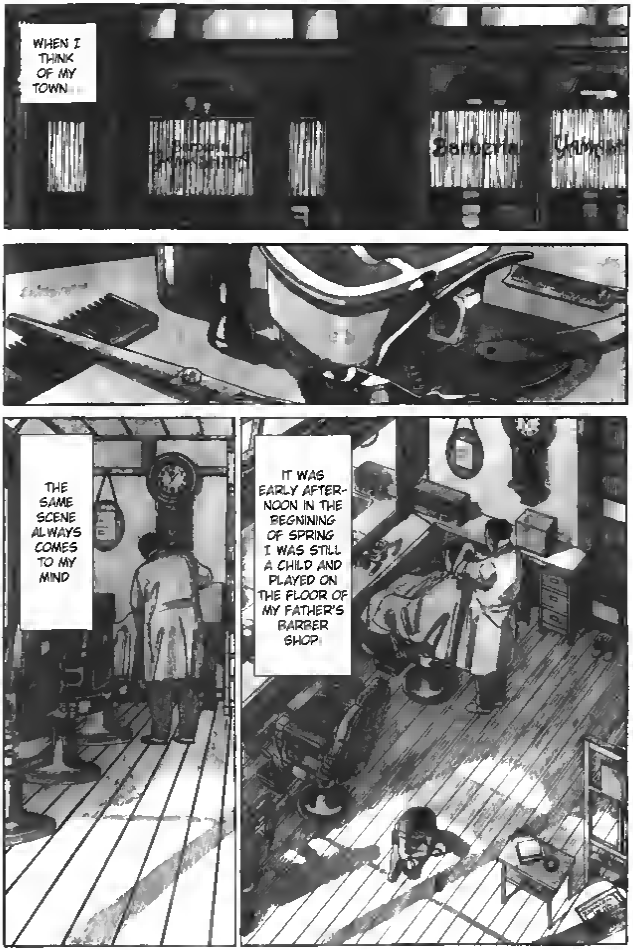
Chapter 1 THAT FLOOR, FLOODED WITH SUNLIGHT

<<read from left to right>>


WHEN I THINK OF MY TOWN...
Barbería
THE SAME SCENE ALWAYS COMES TO MY MIND
IT WAS EARLY AFTER-NOON IN THE BEGINING OF SPRING I WAS STILL A CHILD AND PLAYED ON THE FLOOR OF MY FATHER'S BARBER SHOP.

CHAK CHAK!
CHAK

FLOODED WITH SUNLIGHT, THE FLOOD WAS WARM AND COZY...

I REMEMBER THAT MOMENT AS THE HAPPIEST IN MY CHILDHOOD...

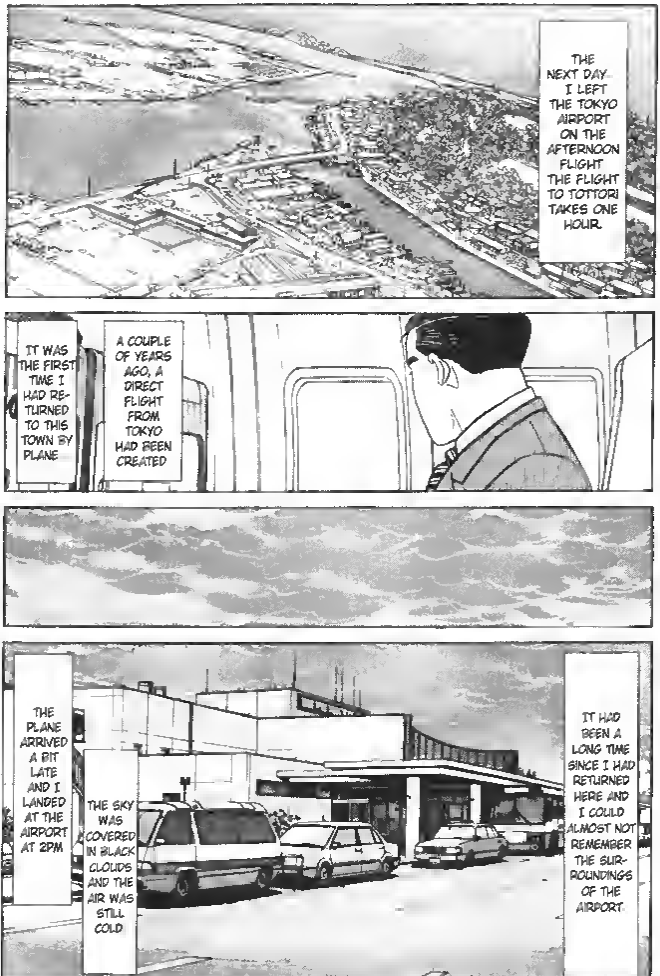
EDITS ALIERA
TRANSLATION JOE_HIGASHI
PROOFING MISAO_CHAN

WEEEE
AAAAAAA
DAMN
SO SUDDENLY...
IF ONLY I HAD GONE TO SEE HIM AT THE HOSPITAL AT THE END OF LAST YEAR
I'LL GO THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BEFORE I GO, I HAVE TO FINISH SOME THINGS AND LEAVE THE WORK TO SOMEONE, BUT...
YES, ALRIGHT... I'LL ASK FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS OFF.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF TOO, HARUKO.
CLAC

WHAT HAPPEN-ED?
WELL...
MY FATHER
HAS DIED
REALLY...?
HE PASSED AWAY...?
I THINK HE HAD JUST TURNED 76...
AH...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YOU'VE GONE TO THAT TOWN
HOW OLD WAS HE...?
WELL... IF HE WAS BORN IN 1915...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN 14 OR 15 YEARS

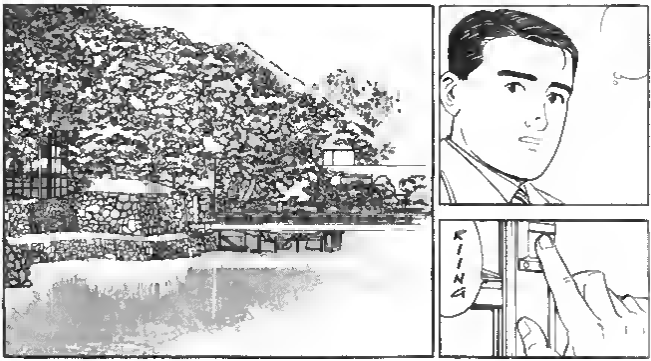
REALLY...?
IT'S BEEN THAT LONG?
YES
EVER SINCE WE'VE BEEN MARRIED, WE ONLY WENT ONCE
YOU COULD HAVE GONE MORE OFTEN...
ALWAYS SAYING YOU WERE TOO BUSY AS AN EXCUSE
YEAH
WHEN YOU LEARNED THAT HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL
YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE TO SEE HIM
YOU'RE GOING RIGHT AWAY, RIGHT?
I HAVE TO TAKE OUT YOUR BLACK SUIT
NO... I'M NOT GOING TO THE MEMORIAL
GOING TO THE FUNERAL FOR A MOMENT SHOULD BE ENOUGH DON'T YOU THINK?
EH !?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? HE'S YOUR FATHER!
YOU MUST GO!
YOU ARE THE ONLY SON! YOU MUST TAKE THE FIRST PLANE IN THE MORNING!

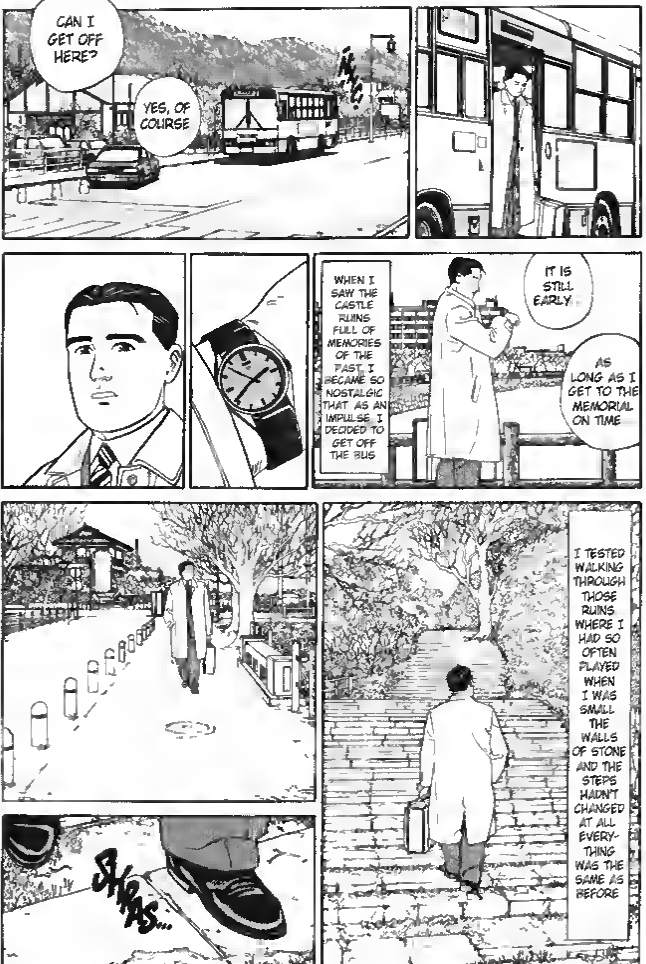
I HAVE TO CLEAN UP THE HOUSE.
AND FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF TAMU.
I'LL GO LATER. I'LL BE ON TIME FOR THE FUNERAL.
AL-RIGHT?
YES
SOME-THING HAPPENED, RIGHT?
YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
NO?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING INTERESTING TO TELL.
IS IT BECAUSE OF THE DIVORCE?
IT HAPPENED WHEN YOU WERE SMALL, RIGHT?
THAT'S ENOUGH
FORGET IT.

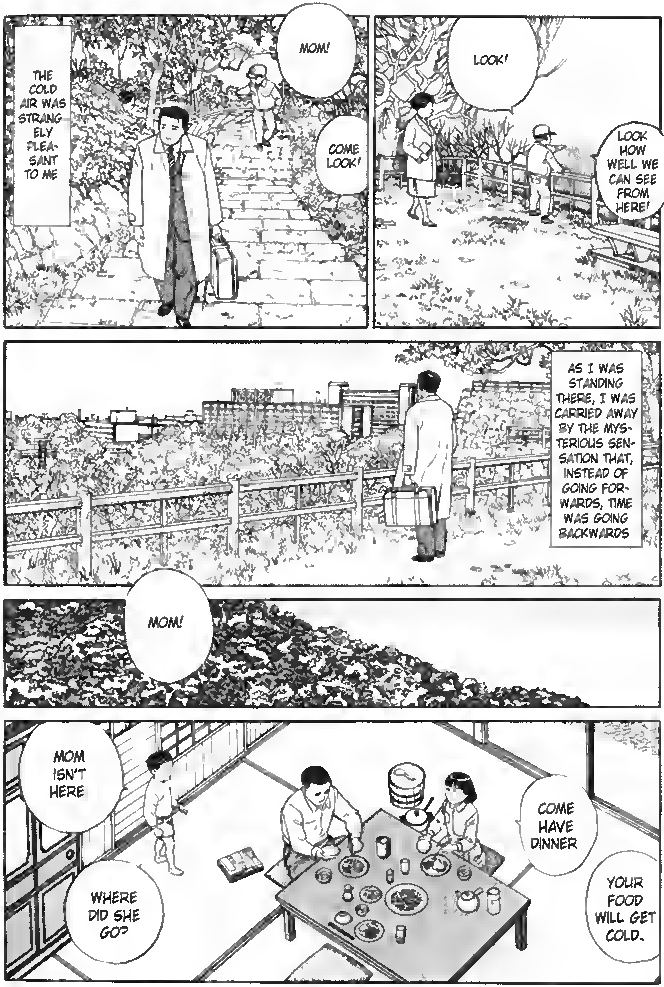

THE NEXT DAY I LEFT THE TOKYO AIRPORT ON THE AFTERNOON FLIGHT THE FLIGHT TO TOTTORI TAKES ONE HOUR.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD RETURNED TO THIS TOWN BY PLANE
A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, A DIRECT FLIGHT FROM TOKYO HAD BEEN CREATED
THE PLANE ARRIVED A BIT LATE AND I LANDED AT THE AIRPORT AT 2PM
THE SKY WAS COVERED IN BLACK CLOUDS AND THE AIR WAS STILL COLD
IT HAD BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD RETURNED HERE AND I COULD ALMOST NOT REMEMBER THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE AIRPORT.

I COULDN'T GET USED TO THE IDEA THAT I WAS IN THIS TOWN
THE ROAD TO THE CITY HAD ALSO CHANGED A LOT

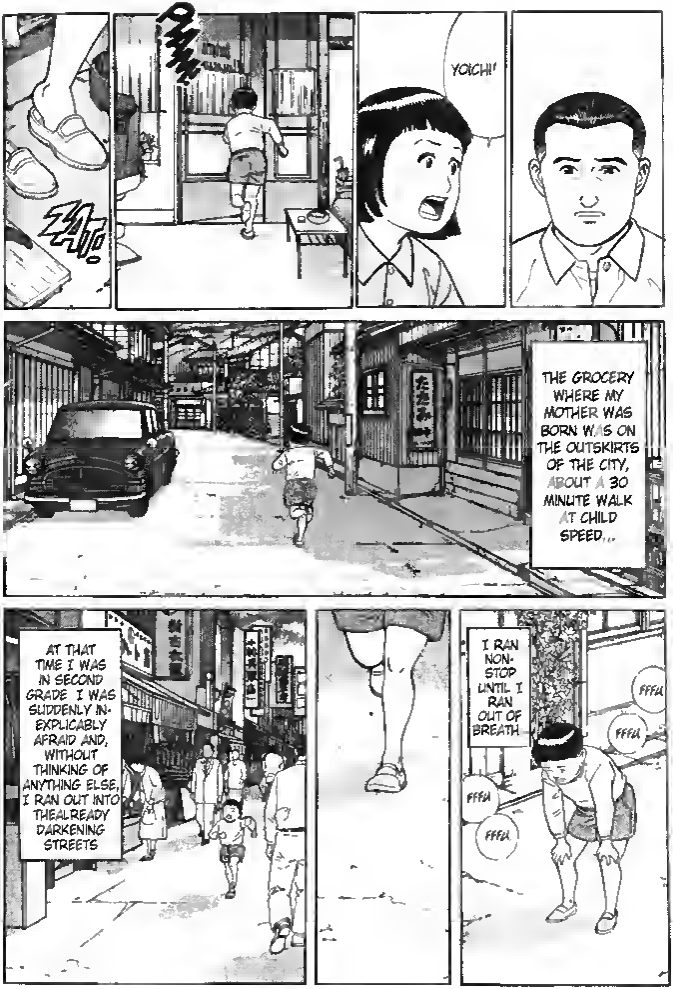
AS THE BUS APPR-OACHED THE CENTER OF THE CITY...
...I THOUGHT THAT THE STREETS WERE MORE CONGRUOUS AND ALL MORE AND MORE RESEMBLED THE MEMORIES THAT I HAD CONSERVED...


RIING

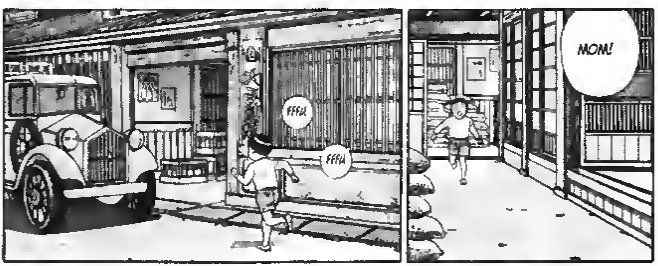

CAN I GET OFF HERE?
YES, OF COURSE
WHEN I SAW THE CASTLE RUINS FULL OF MEMORIES OF THE PAST, I BECAME SO NOSTALGIC THAT AS AN IMPULSE I DECIDED TO GET OFF THE BUS
IT IS STILL EARLY.
AS LONG AS I GET TO THE MEMORIAL ON TIME
I TESTED WALKING THROUGH THOSE RUINS WHERE I HAD SO OFTEN PLAYED WHEN I WAS SMALL. THE WALLS OF STONE AND THE STEPS HADN'T CHANGED AT ALL. EVERYTHING WAS THE SAME AS BEFORE
SHE WAS...

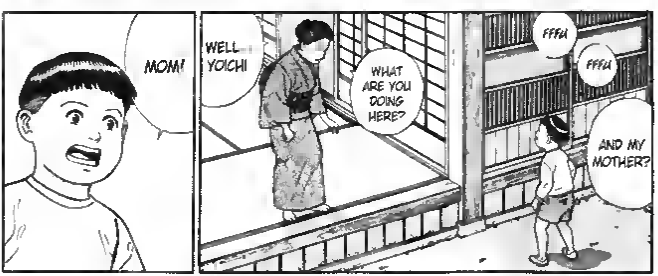

THE COLD AIR WAS STRANGELY PLEASANT TO ME
MOM!
COME LOOK!
LOOK!
LOOK HOW WELL WE CAN SEE FROM HERE!
AS I WAS STANDING THERE, I WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE MYSTERIOUS SENSATION THAT, INSTEAD OF GOING FORWARDS, TIME WAS GOING BACKWARDS
MOM!
MOM ISN'T HERE
WHERE DID SHE GO?
COME HAVE DINNER
YOUR FOOD WILL GET COLD.

SHE WENT TO GRANDPA'S HOUSE?
CHEW
I DON'T KNOW.
CHA-CHA
AH!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO LOOK FOR MOM.
NO! NO!
DON'T GO!
PAK!
YO!-OH!
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO.
WHY?
BECAUSE I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO GO.
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER


YOICHI!
THE GROCERY WHERE MY MOTHER WAS BORN WAS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, ABOUT A 30 MINUTE WALK AT CHILD SPEED...
AT THAT TIME I WAS IN SECOND GRADE I WAS SUDDENLY INEXPLICABLY AFRAID AND, WITHOUT THINKING OF ANYTHING ELSE, I RAN OUT INTO THE ALREADY DARKENING STREETS
I RAN NONSTOP UNTIL I RAN OUT OF BREATH
FFFU
FFFU
FFFU
FFFU

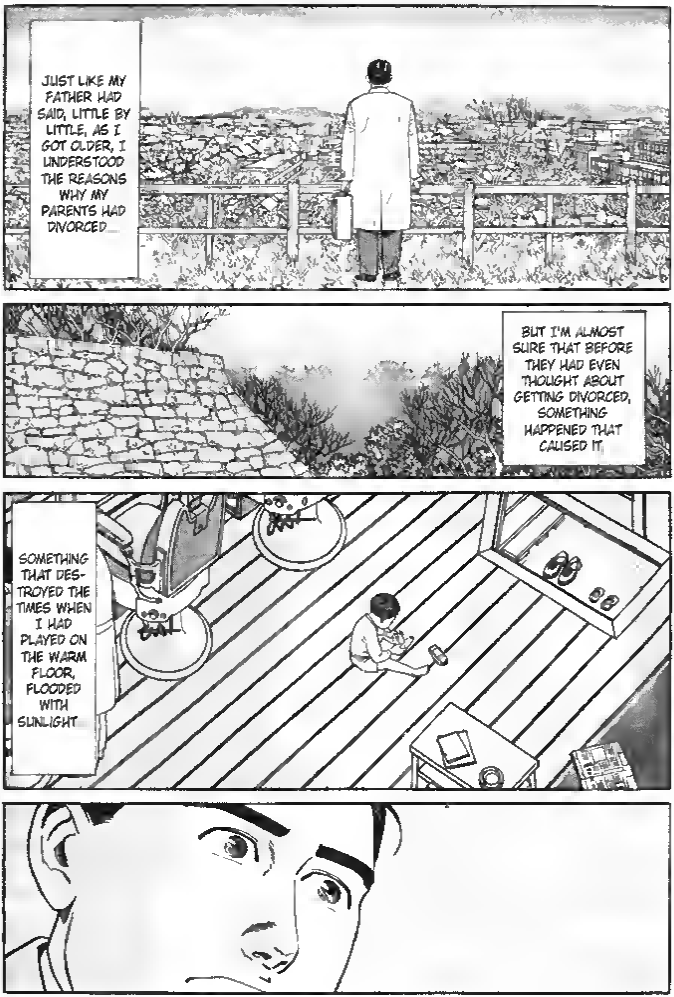
NIGHT TIME WAS ARRIVING... AND I WAS EVEN MORE AFRAID
GRITTING MY TEETH SO I WOULDN'T CRY, I WENT ON RUNNING

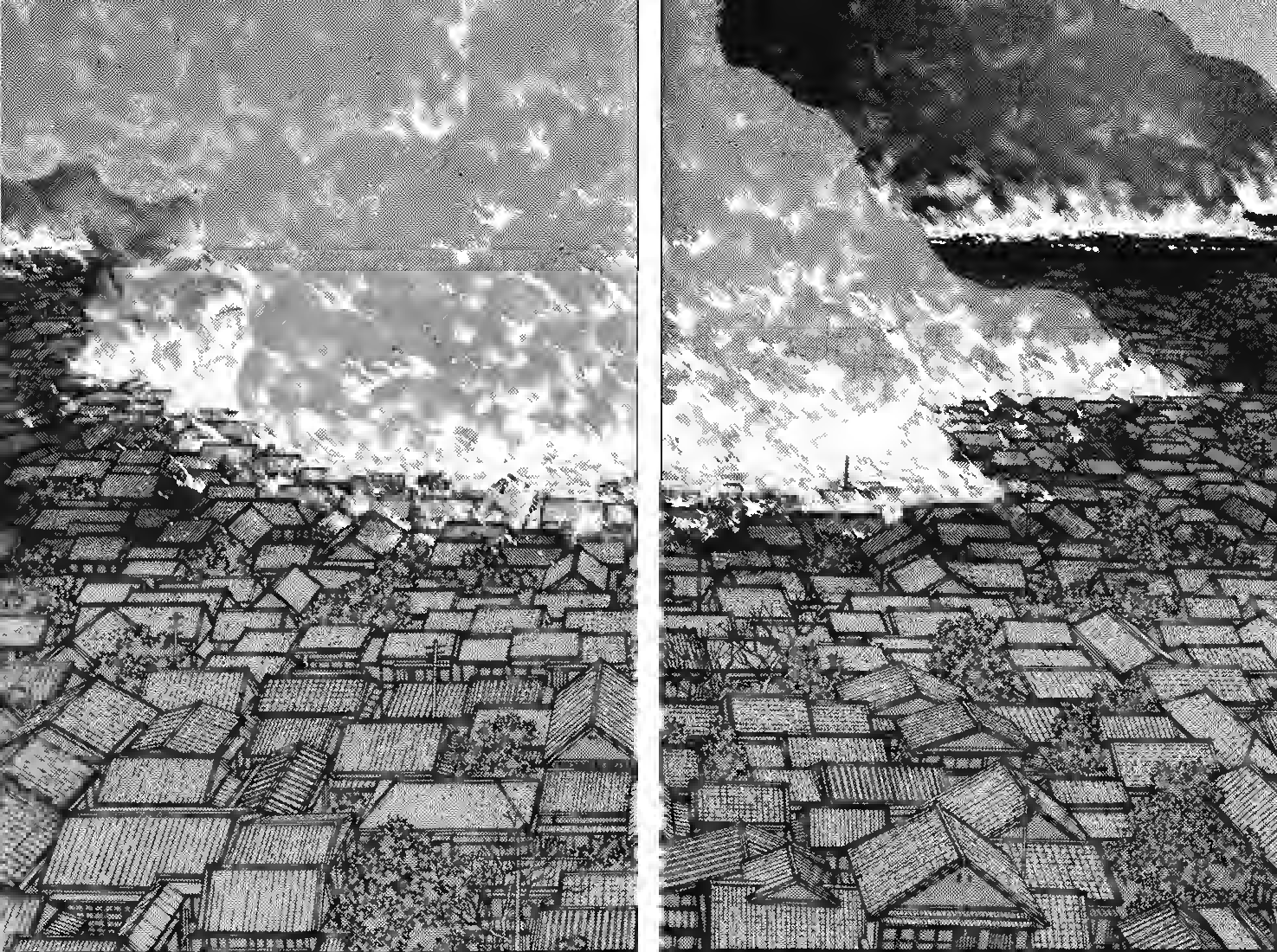

FFFA
FFFA
MOM!

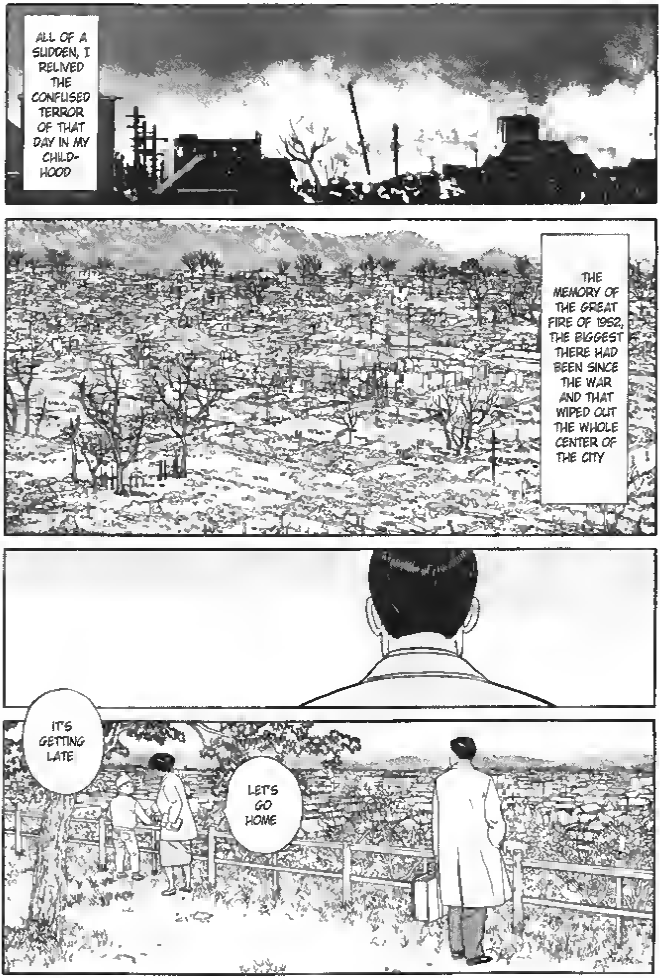

MOM!
WELL YOICHI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
FFFA
FFFA
AND MY MOTHER?

SHE'S NOT HERE
IT CAN'T BE!
HEY
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHE CAME TO HELP YOU WITH THE SAKE, RIGHT?
I SEE... HE HASN'T TOLD THE KIDS YET.
POW
WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU'VE BEEN VERY BRAVE.
YOU CAME ALONE, RIGHT?
WHERE IS MY MOTHER?
SHE WENT SOMEWHERE ELSE.
YOUR MOTHER ISN'T HERE
AND HE TOLD ME THAT MY PARENTS HAD DIVORCED
UNCLE DAISUKE, MY MOTHER'S OLDER BROTHER, INVITED ME TO EAT CURRY IN THE RESTAURANT AROUND THE CORNER.
SHE SAYS SHE WON'T GO BACK TO YOUR FATHER
WHY?
WHY DIDN'T SHE TAKE US WITH HER?

THIS, WELL... SHE DID IT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD
YOU HAVE SCHOOL AND SUCH THINGS
WHEN
YOU'RE OLDER, YOU'LL UNDER-STAND
OK?
I DON'T GET IT!
YEAH... WELL YOU DON'T NEED TO UNDERSTAND, THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS THAT YOU KIDS STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND
BUAAH
IT WAS MUCH BETTER THAN SEPARATING YOU AND HARUKO. YOUR SISTER IS ALREADY A WOMAN AND SHE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU
SHE KNOWS NOTHING...
IN THESE CASES, IT'S THE KIDS WHO SUFFER THE MOST
SNIFF
SNIFF
OI YOICHI, WHEN YOU FEEL ALONE, COME AND AND SEE ME.
TELL HARUKO TOO. WE'LL PLAY TOGETHER, OK?
BESIDES, MAYBE ONE DAY YOUR MOTHER WILL COME BACK HOME.
OBEY YOUR FATHER AND STUDY HARD.
OK?
BUAAAAAA!!
BUAAAAAAA!!
丸山食堂
うどん


JUST LIKE MY FATHER HAD SAID, LITTLE BY LITTLE, AS I GOT OLDER, I UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS WHY MY PARENTS HAD DIVORCED...
BUT I'M ALMOST SURE THAT BEFORE THEY HAD EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING DIVORCED, SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT CAUSED IT.
SOMETHING THAT DESTROYED THE TIMES WHEN I HAD PLAYED ON THE WARM FLOOR, FLOODED WITH SUNLIGHT.




ALL OF A SUDDEN, I RELIVED THE CONFUSED TERROR OF THAT DAY IN MY CHILD-HOOD
THE MEMORY OF THE GREAT FIRE OF 1952, THE BIGGEST THERE HAD BEEN SINCE THE WAR AND THAT WIPED OUT THE WHOLE CENTER OF THE CITY
IT'S GETTING LATE
LET'S GO HOME

FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
FFFA
OH NO
FFFA
FFFA
I'M LATE
AH!

GOOD AFTER-NOON
GOOD AFTER-NOON
YOU'RE THE UNCLE FROM TOKYO RIGHT? HI, I'M HARUO
AH... MY SISTER'S SON...
I DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE YOU
YEAH
LAST TIME I SAW YOU, YOU WERE STILL A BABY
MOM!
THE UNCLE FROM TOKYO HAS ARRIVED!
AH YOICHI
WELCOME HOME
IT'S COLD, ISN'T IT?
COME SHIRO LET'S GO!
I'M HAPPY YOU'RE ALREADY HERE. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME TOMMOROW
YOU MANAGED TO LEAVE WORK?
YES

I'M GOING FOR A WALK
HARUO MUST BE IN HIGH SCHOOL
YES WELL, COME IN
THE MONK JUST LEFT
RYOKO WILL SURELY ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THE FUNERAL TOMMORROW
REALLY? THAT'S SO MUCH TROUBLE
YOICHI HAS ARRIVED
SORRY I'M LATE
HELLO YOICHI
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME
WELL WELL, IS THAT YOU YOICHI?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
FROM SO FAR
HEY YOICHI!
COME HERE!
UNCLE
THANKS FOR BEING AT OUR SIDE IN THESE TIMES

NOW, NOW...
NO NEED FOR FORMALITIES
I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS THEY ALL SAID PLEASANT THINGS TO ME
HAHA HAHA
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU
IN REALITY, I...
...NOT BEING A PART OF THE FAMILY, I SHOULDN'T BE SITTING HERE HAHAHA.
DON'T SAY THAT
I REMEMBER WELL...
...WHEN YOU HELPED US WHEN WE WERE LITTLE
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER, WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU'RE DOING WELL
THAT IS ENOUGH
HI
MITSUO?
YOU'RE MITSUO?
YES! WE WERE ALL WAITING FOR YOU
HAVE A DRINK

YO! CHI!
WELCOME
MOM...
I REGRET NOT COMING FOR SO LONG
NO THANKS FOR COMING
I KNOW IT'S BEEN HARD, BEING SO OCCUPIED
YOUR FATHER WOULD BE SO HAPPY
GO SEE HIM FOR A MOMENT

IN THE COFFIN MY FATHER LOOKED MUCH SMALLER THAN THE LAST TIME I HAD SEEN HIM
FOR AN INSTANT, I FELT SOME GUILT FOR NOT BEING AT HIS SIDE WHEN HE DIED
MY FATHER LEFT LEAVING ME WITH THE DOUBT I HAD INSIDE ME SINCE I WAS A CHILD

-END CHAPTER 1-

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Chapter 2

THE IMAGE OF SPRING

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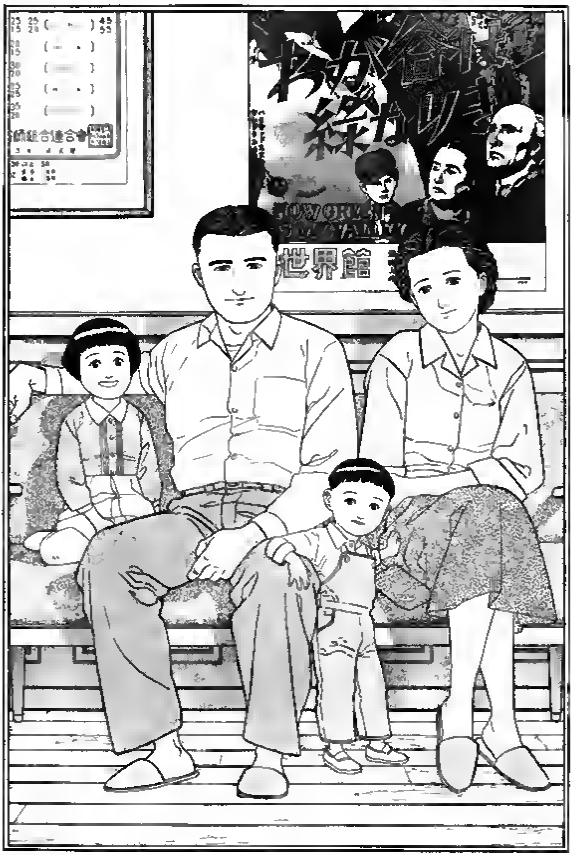

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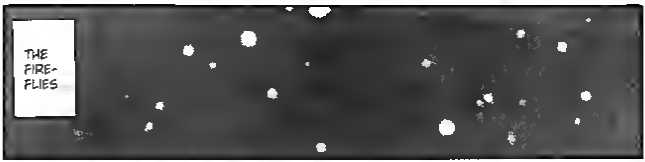
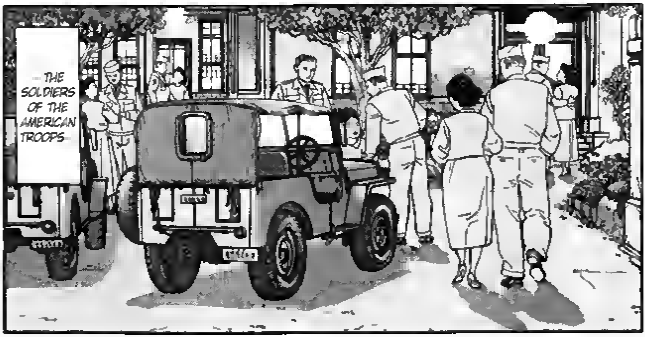
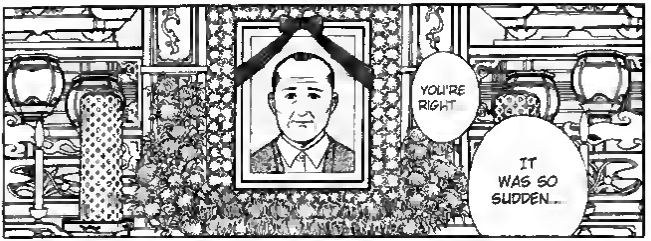
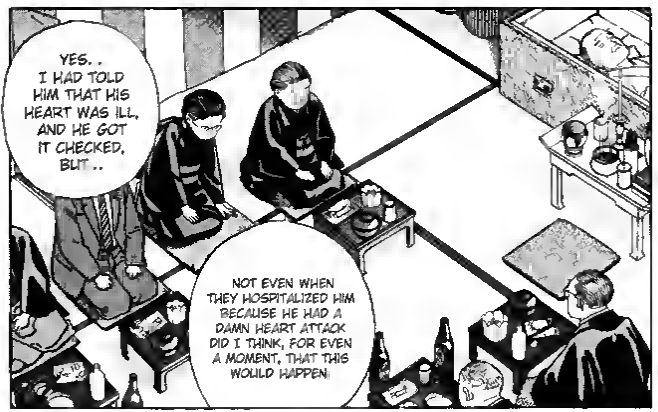




THE DANCES
AND MY MOTHER.
BUT EVERY TIME I TRY TO REMEMBER THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO WAS DANCING WITH MY MOTHER, WITH SO MUCH LOOSENESS, THE IMAGE DISAPPEARS


YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT WAS SO SUDDEN...


YES.. I HAD TOLD HIM THAT HIS HEART WAS ILL, AND HE GOT IT CHECKED, BUT..
NOT EVEN WHEN THEY HOSPITALIZED HIM BECAUSE HE HAD A DAMN HEART ATTACK DID I THINK, FOR EVEN A MOMENT, THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

TRUE.. HE LOOKED FINE.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT
NO ONE KNOWS WHEN HIS TIME WILL COME

BUT THANK GOOD-NESS
THAT YOU, MOTHER, WERE THERE WITH HIM WHEN HE LEFT
YES!
IN THIS HE WAS LUCKY.
AND, IF YOU SAY HE DIDN'T SUFFER..
YEAH, I ALSO THINK SO
HE DIED IN HIS SLEEP.
EVERYDAY, I WAS BY HIS SIDE TAKING CARE OF HIM... WE HAD ALREADY SAID EVERYTHING WE HAD TO SAY...
BUT ON THAT DAY, WE SPOKE A LOT.
TSURUKO WHEN I GET BETTER, WE'LL GO FOR A WALK IN OOUCHIDAN!
OF COURSE

WE'LL HAVE A PICNIC
I LOVE THAT PLACE
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT...
WALKING IN THAT PARK MAKES ME FEEL STRANGELY PEACEFUL
YES, IN SUMMER YOU CAN SEE THE FIREFLIES
LET'S HOPE YOU GET WELL SOON
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN VERY HAPPY WITH YOU
THE TIMES WE HAD...
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS NOW...?
YOICHI

WE COULD GO SEE HIM IN TOKYO
I'LL GO WITH YOU!
AFTER ALL YOU'RE BONDED BY BLOOD, YOU'RE FATHER AND SON
HE'LL SURELY BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU!
YES...
BESIDES, HIS WIFE HAS ALWAYS INVITED US TO HER HOUSE
SHE ALWAYS SAYS THAT WE SHOULD GO TO TOKYO... THAT YOICHI HAD A LOT OF WORK AND COULD NOT COME TO SEE US.
WE'LL DO THAT.
WE'LL GO SEE THEM.
WE WERE SPEAKING OF THINGS, JUMPING FROM ONE SUBJECT TO ANOTHER...
AND HE FELL ASLEEP

WELL, I THOUGHT HE HAD FALLEN ASLEEP
AFTER A WHILE, THE DOCTOR ON DUTY CAME
AND TOLD ME HIS HEART HAD STOPPED
THEY DID GAVE HIM A HEART MASSAGE AND EVERYTHING ELSE THEY COULD...
...BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE
IF I HAD NOTICED EARLIER...
UUUH
DON'T THINK THAT, TSURUKO
UUUH
IT'S TRUE HE DIED IN HIS SLEEP
YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD FOR HIM
THAT'S THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE
<CRYING SOUND>
BESIDES, YOU WERE BY HIS SIDE WHEN HE LEFT US. TAKESHI DIED IN PEACE
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR ANY-THING
UUUH
OF COURSE TAKESHI WAS VERY HAPPY

MOTHER
UHHH
IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO GO TO BED.
YOU DIDN'T SLEEP YESTERDAY
OF COURSE GO TO SLEEP
THE FUNERAL IS TOMORROW.
WE'LL STAY WITH HIM TONIGHT
YOU MUST REST.
THEY'RE RIGHT SLEEP FOR A WHILE
MAYBE
WELL, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME
YOICHI
YOU TAKE CARE OF THINGS

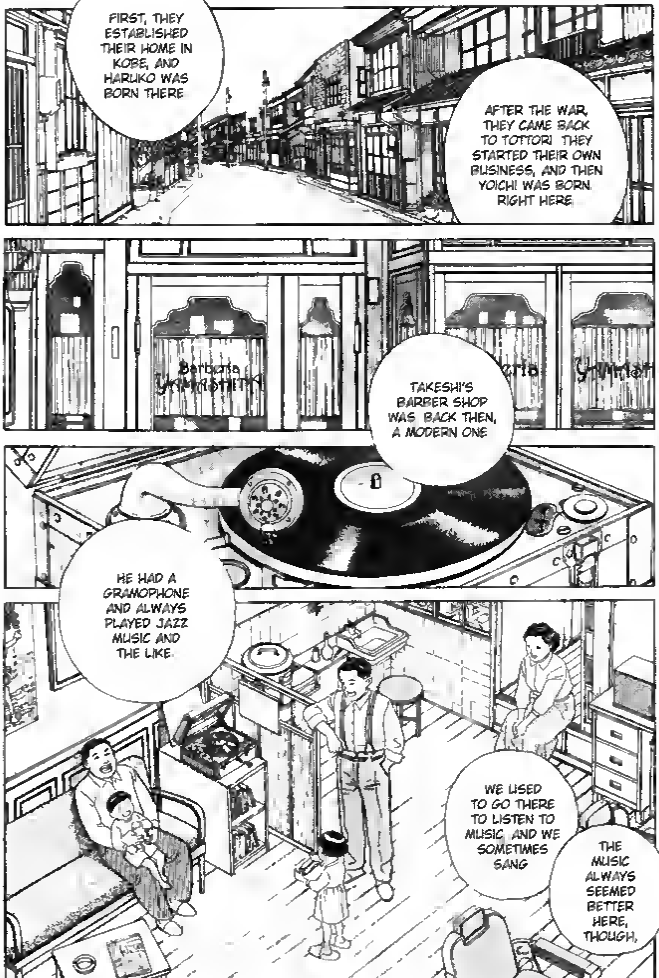
I FELT AN OVER-WHELM-ING SHAME
I HADN'T TAKEN CARE OF MY FATHER AND MY STEPMOTHER, MY SISTER AND MY RELATIVES HAD ALL GIVEN HIM THEIR LOVE
NO ONE HAD BLAMED ME OF HAVING ABANDONED THE VILLAGE, THE FAMILY, AND MY MOTHER.
EVERYTHING SEEMED TO ASK ME WHY I RESENTED MY FATHER FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
ON THE CON-TRARY, THE VILLAGE WELCOM-ED ME WITH OPEN ARMS.

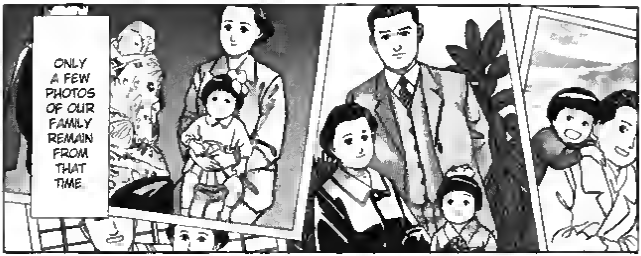
HE WAS SUCH A GOOD PERSON... WE'LL MISS HIM
AND...
TSURUKO ALWAYS SAID...
THAT NEVER
HAD SHE SEEN HIM SHOUT OR ARGUE
HEY
ARE YOU DIRECTING THAT AT ME?
I KNOW
I KNOW THAT WHEN I GET DRUNK I LOSE MY SENSES
YOU, UNCLE DAISUKE WERE THE PERSON MY FATHER TRUSTED THE MOST...
WE ARE VERY THANKFUL OF YOU.
REALLY? IS THAT TRUE?
ALL OF YOU REALLY THINK SO?
HA HA HA HA!
BUT IF YOU DIDN'T DRINK, IT WOULD BE BETTER!
HA HA HA HA
THAT WASN'T DIRECTED AT YOU, DAISUKE
OF COURSE NOT

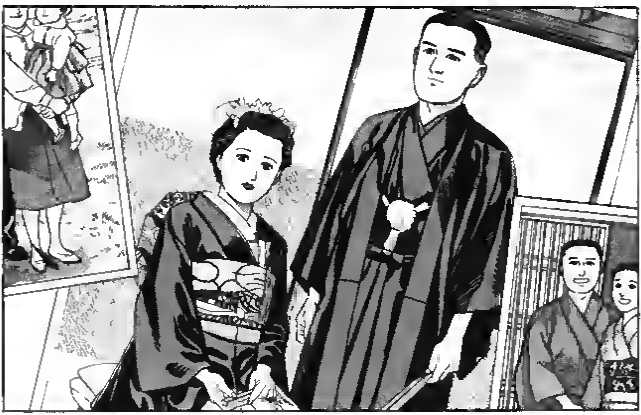
HEY, YOICHI
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
COME HAVE A DRINK CLOSE TO YOUR FATHER.
DURING THE MEMORIAL, YOU SHOULDN'T GET SAD IF THEY SEE SADNESS, THE SOULS OF THE DEAD CAN'T REST IN PEACE.
OK?
COME ON, DRINK!
I DON'T DRINK AS MUCH AS YOU, UNCLE
I'M ONLY JOINING YOU!
DRINK THINKING ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
HE WAS THE PERSON WHO LOVED YOU THE MOST
I'M SURE HE'S VERY HAPPY THAT YOU CAME
ALL RIGHT?
HE IS HAPPY TO SEE YOU!
WHAT A PEACEFUL EXPRESSION HE HAS.
YOUR FATHER WAS VERY GOOD-LOOKING WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.

YEAH, MY BROTHER LEARNED HOW TO BE A BARBER IN KOBE AND WAS ALWAYS FASHIONABLE.
THAT'S WHY KIYOKO FELL MADLY IN LOVE WITH HIM.
I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER.
MY PARENTS HAD ARRANGED KIYOKO'S MARRIAGE WITH ANOTHER MAN.
BUT SHE STILL WANTED TO MARRY TAKESHI AND MADE A SCANDAL AT HOME.
UNCLE DAISUKE!
HMM?
AH... OF COURSE!
NO... I WANT TO KNOW.
LET HIM SPEAK. TSURUKO HAS ALREADY GONE TO SLEEP.
EXPLAIN IT TO HIM.
I UNDERSTOOD MY SISTER AND TRIED TO HELP HER ANYWAY I COULD.
THE WAR HAD JUST BEGUN *
HERS WAS WHAT WE NOW CALL A MARRIAGE OF LOVE
WELL, YOU SEE...
GULP!
AT THE TIME... MY FAMILY WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE WEDDING

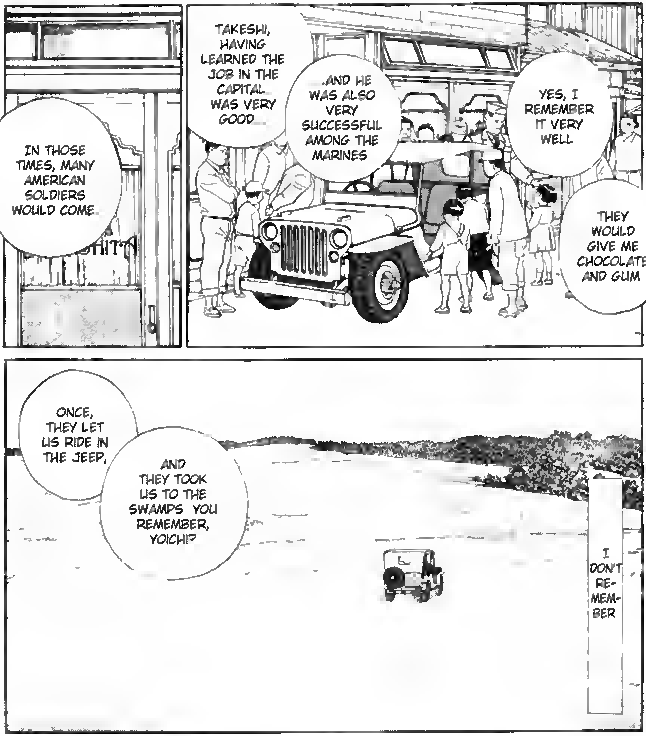
*EDITOR'S NOTE- WWII


FIRST, THEY ESTABLISHED THEIR HOME IN KOBE, AND HARUKO WAS BORN THERE
AFTER THE WAR, THEY CAME BACK TO TOTTORI. THEY STARTED THEIR OWN BUSINESS, AND THEN YOICHI WAS BORN RIGHT HERE.
TAKESHI'S BARBER SHOP WAS BACK THEN, A MODERN ONE.
HE HAD A GRAMOPHONE AND ALWAYS PLAYED JAZZ MUSIC AND THE LIKE.
WE USED TO GO THERE TO LISTEN TO MUSIC, AND WE SOMETIMES SANG.
THE MUSIC ALWAYS SEEMED BETTER HERE, THOUGH.


ONLY A FEW PHOTOS OF OUR FAMILY REMAIN FROM THAT TIME.



ALMOST ALL THE PHOTOS WERE IN ALBUMS THAT BURNED IN THE GREAT FIRE.
ONLY THREE PHOTOS FROM MY GRAND-MOTHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE REMAINED FROM MY CHILD-HOOD.


IN THOSE TIMES, MANY AMERICAN SOLDIERS WOULD COME...
TAKESHI, HAVING LEARNED THE JOB IN THE CAPITAL WAS VERY GOOD...
...AND HE WAS ALSO VERY SUCCESSFUL AMONG THE MARINES
YES, I REMEMBER IT VERY WELL
THEY WOULD GIVE ME CHOCOLATE AND GUM
ONCE, THEY LET US RIDE IN THE JEEP,
AND THEY TOOK US TO THE SWAMPS YOU REMEMBER, YOICHI?
I DON'T REMEMBER
FOR ME WHO HAD GROWN UP WITHOUT KNOWING THEM, THOSE STORIES MY UNCLES TOLD ME ABOUT WHEN MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE YOUNG WERE TRULY NEW
BUT NOT ALL SOLDIERS WERE GOOD PEOPLE
THERE WERE ALSO MANY UNPLEASANT ONES

GOOD AFTER-NOON!
CAN YOU GIVE ME A PERM-ANENT?
YES
WITH A CURLING IRON YES
WELL, GIVE ME ONE
AND GIVE HIM A TOUPEE
YES, PLEASE
MY FATHER'S PROFESSION, ALWAYS BEING CAUGHT UP WITH FASHION, WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO CURL HAIR PERMANENTLY
*JAPANESE FOR THANK YOU
WELL?
OH, beautiful *
ARI-GATO*
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
THAT WILL BE 45 YEN FOR WASHING AND MARKING PLUS 40 YEN FOR THE PERM-ANENT

*everything n this font is spoken in english

I HAVE NO MONEY!
EH?
HA HA HA HA!
ONE MOMENT
WAIT!
What!?
IF I WERE YOU, I WOULDN'T INSIST.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S CAPABLE OF DOING
...
85 YEN!
Please, 85 yen!!
*n english
HONEY! GIVE UP!
NO! HE'S GOING TO PAY ME!
85 yen!
What!?
Please!
I have no money! Understand!?
HONEY!
THIS IS HOW I EARN MY LIVING!
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT WE LOST THE WAR!
Eighty-Five Yen, Please!!

Shut Up!!
UGH
HEY
WHAT'S GOING ON, TAKESHI?
AH, DAISUKE!
SEP-ARATE THEM!
Please, eighty-five yen!
TELL HIM TO LET GO OF HIM!
UGH
HE HE WON'T PAY ME
WHAT!?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, YOU IMBECILE!
PAY HIM WHAT YOU OWE!
What's Going On Here!?

THANKS TO THE INTERVENTION OF SERGEANT JAMES, WHO WAS A REGULAR AT THE BARBER SHOP, THE FIGHT ENDED WITHOUT MY FATHER OR THE SOLDIER FEELING TOO HUMILIATED
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN KOREA AGAIN. THE SOLDIERS ARE VERY NERVOUS
YOU HAVE PATIENCE, IT WOULDN'T BOTHER YOU
OK
I THINK JAPAN IS BETTER IN THESE THINGS
OH, YAMASHITA.
DO YOU KNOW THE CIC CLUB, WHERE THE AMERICAN COMMANDERS LIVE?
YES, IN OUCHIDANI...
RIGHT... COMMANDER ROBERT ASKS IF YOU CAN GIVE HIM A HAIRCUT
COULD YOU GO THERE?
IT'S VERY CONCEITED BUT PLEASE HUMOUR HIM
SURE
FROM THEN ON, MY FATHER OCCASIONALLY WENT TO WORK THERE IN THE AMERICAN COMMANDERS RESIDENCE

NOW THAT I RECALL
I THINK THEY WENT TO SOME OF THE AMERICAN COMMANDERS' PARTIES
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
THAT'S TRUE
I REMEMBER WATCHING HIM PRACTICE THE DANCE STEPS WITH KIYOKO
ONE
TWO
HE DANCED SO STIFFLY IT WAS SADDENING TO WATCH
ONE
TWO
I FELT EMBARR-ASSED FOR HIM
HAHA HAHA HA
YOICH!
YOU DO REMEMBER SOME THINGS FROM THAT TIME RIGHT?

...THAT MAN...
MAYBE THE MAN DANCING WITH MY MOTHER IN THAT VAGUE MEMORY I KEPT... WAS MY FATHER...

I REMEMBER MY FATHER WAS ALWAYS QUIET...
...WITH THAT APPARENT SERENITY OF ONE WHO DOESN'T EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS.
HELLO
AH...
GOOD AFTERNOON.
FROM BEHIND, HE HAD A SOLITARY LOOK AND HE DIDN'T TALK MUCH. HE WORKED IN SILENCE.
I SAW HIM AS A MAN WHO'S WHOSE LIFE WAS SUSTAINED BY HONESTY.
THE ONLY SMALL PLEASURE MY FATHER ALLOWED HIMSELF WAS THE TWO LITTLE CUPS OF SAKE HE DRANK AT NIGHT AFTER WORK...

LONG BEFORE MY FATHER HAD ALSO BEEN YOUNG.
MY FATHER AND MOTHER DANCING —
THAT VAGUE MEMORY THAT ALWAYS DISAPPEARED, SUDDENLY WAS REPLACED WITH A CLEAR IMAGE.
THAT MAN WAS MY FATHER!

-END CHAPTER 2-

CHAPTER 03 :
A MEMORY OF THE COLOR OF FIRE

Scanned by Ink
Translated by joe_higashi
Edited by vensu
Checked by regalatre

Released by : #blackout@irchighway.net
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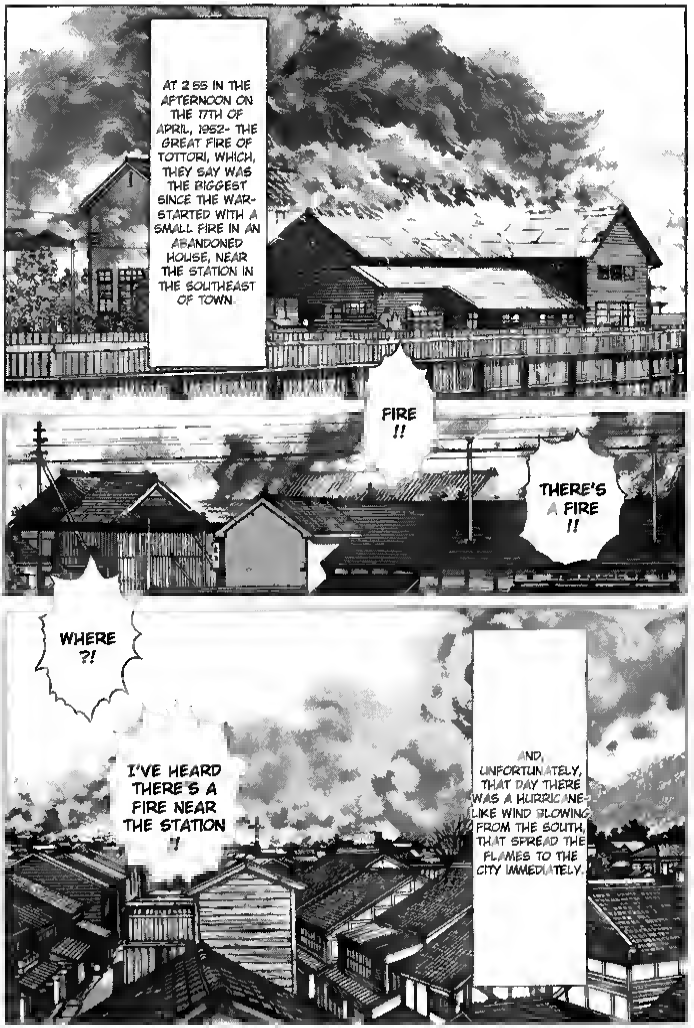
Notes : Thanks go to Inane (especially Allera)
for providing me scans and trans.

WHEN I WAS AROUND 3 OR 4, I BEGAN TO HAVE USE OF REASON
IT WAS ABOUT THEN WE WERE GIVEN A DOG
IT WAS A WHITE FEMALE SPITZ AND ALREADY AN ADULT
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT GOT TO OUR HOUSE
NOR DID WE KNOW EXACTLY HOW OLD IT WAS
BUT I WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY

IT WAS RATHER NERVOUS AND HOWLED A LOT.
BUT IT WAS A FRIENDLY AND CARING DOG
GIVE ME YOUR PAW!
ITS REAL NAME WAS SHIRO BUT
CHIRO!
TRANSLATION NOTE: SHIRO=WHITE
BEFORE LONG THE WHOLE FAMILY CALLED HER CHIRO TOO.
CHIRO WAS THE FIRST DOG I HAD.

山下理髪店
YES, OF COURSE
IT WAS THE FIRE
THAT WAS AT FAULT
YEAH
I WAS GOING TO HIRE AN APPRENTICE FOR THE BARBER SHOP
THAT'S TRUE
IT HAS BEEN VERY HARD ON HIM
AND ON EVERYONE
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE ALL THOUGHT "IF ONLY THAT FIRE HADN'T HAPPENED"

YOU BOTH, HARUKO AND YOICHI, WERE STILL LITTLE THEN.
YES. I RARELY REMEMBER IT
I WAS ALREADY IN PRIMARY SCHOOL. I REMEMBER IT VERY WELL
BECAUSE IT WAS SO FRIGHTFUL
AND WORSE
EVEN NOW, WHEN I HEAR A SIREN
I JUMP UP
WE NEVER KNEW
WHAT IT WAS THAT STARTED THE FIRE
I... WAS LOOKING, SEARCHING IN MY MIND FOR THAT CONFUSED MEMORY OF THE FIRE
THE MEMORY OF THE COLOR OF FIRE, OF THOSE INFERNAL FLAMES THAT ALSO BURNED OUR ONCE HAPPY HOME


AT 2:55 IN THE AFTERNOON ON THE 17TH OF APRIL, 1952- THE GREAT FIRE OF TOTTORI, WHICH, THEY SAY WAS THE BIGGEST SINCE THE WAR- STARTED WITH A SMALL FIRE IN AN ABANDONED HOUSE, NEAR THE STATION IN THE SOUTHEAST OF TOWN.
FIRE !!
THERE'S A FIRE !!
WHERE ?!
I'VE HEARD THERE'S A FIRE NEAR THE STATION !!
AND, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT DAY THERE WAS A HURRICANE-LIKE WIND BLOWING FROM THE SOUTH, THAT SPREAD THE FLAMES TO THE CITY IMMEDIATELY.

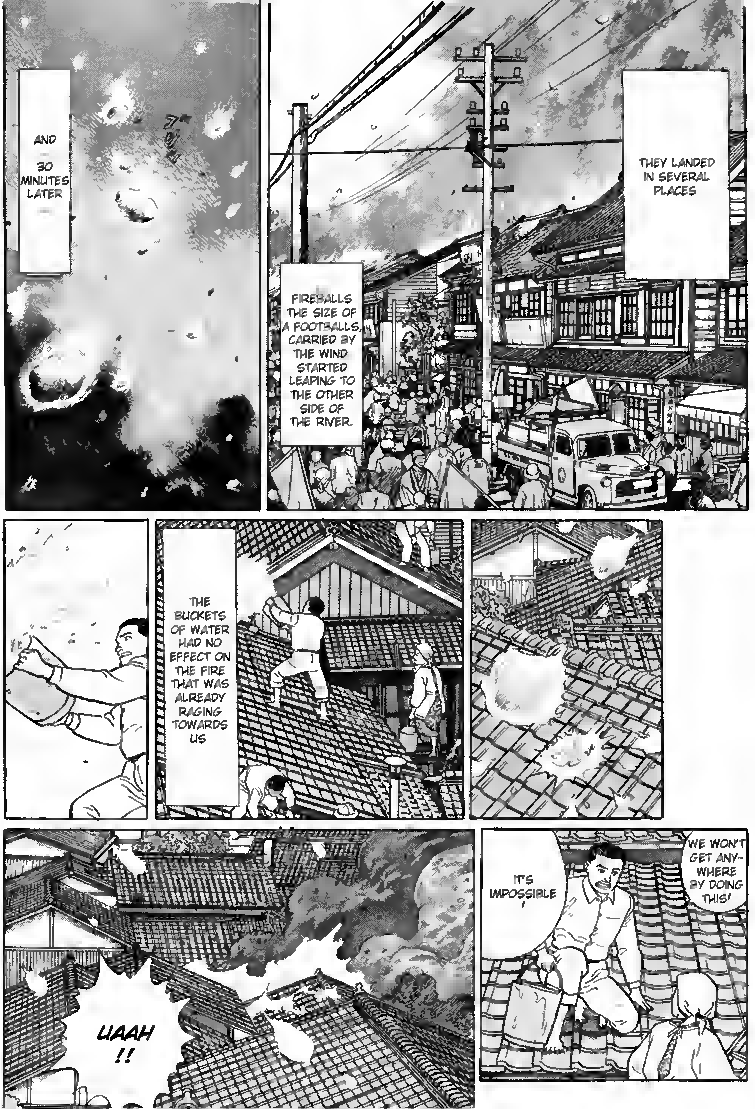
THAT FIRE PROVOKED OTHER FIRES IN DIFFERENT PLACES OF THE CITY. AND THE FLAMES NOURISHED BY THE WIND WERE GROWING BIGGER AND BIGGER.
THE WIND IS SO STRONG THAT IT DOESN'T GIVE US THE TIME TO PUT THE FIRE OUT.
THE WIND IS COMING OUR WAY
WHAT'S THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OVER THERE?
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY BUT IT'S PROBABLY AT SUEHIRO STREET BY NOW...
TAKESHI! MY MOTHER'S HOUSE!
YES
I'D BETTER GO TAKE A LOOK
AND THE KIDS ?
MAKE SURE THEY STAY HERE
YES

TAKESHI!
DON'T WORRY I'LL COME BACK RIGHT AWAY
ALSO, THE FUKURO RIVER IS HERE, THE FLAMES WON'T MAKE IT THIS FAR
WE KIDS WERE PLAYING PEACEFULLY IN THE YARD NEAR THE HOUSE, COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF OUR PARENTS' WORRIES
YOICHI!
HARUKO!
AH!
MOM!
COME BACK HOME IMMEDIATELY
WHY?
IT'S STILL EARLY
EVERY-BODY GO HOME
THERE IS A FIRE NEAR THE STATION

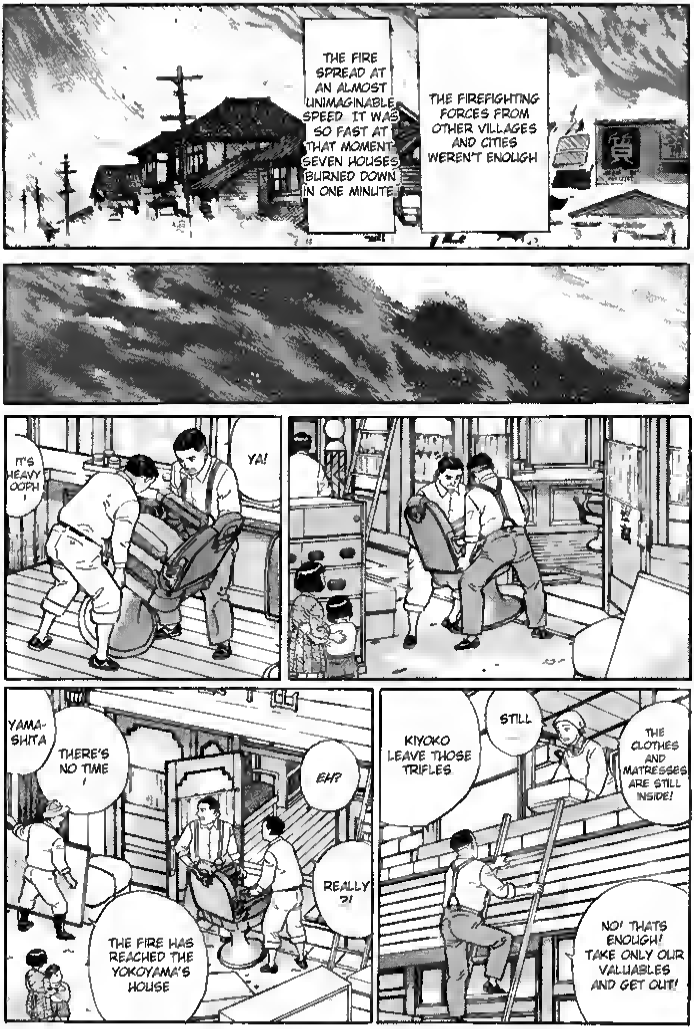
SOON AFTER, THE FLAMES, RATHER THAN WEAKENING, WERE INSTEAD GETTING STRONGER, AND THE FIRE WAS SPREADING.
IN SPITE OF THEIR EFFORTS TO PUT THE FIRES OUT, THE FEW FIRETRUCKS AVAILABLE COULDN'T HANDLE THE FLAMES' POWER.
THE INADEQUATE FIRE PREVENTION OF THE TIME AND THE LACK OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIREMEN, WERE WHY THE FIRE SPREAD AND COULDN'T BE HALTED.
THE ONLY THING THE PEOPLE COULD DO WAS TEAR DOWN BUILDINGS SO THE FIRE WOULDN'T SPREAD, OR PASS ALONG BUCKETS OF WATER TO HELP THE VOLUNTARY BRIGADE AND THE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS

MY GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE WAS CLOSE TO WHERE THE FIRE STARTED SO WHEN MY FATHER ARRIVED THE FIRE WAS ALREADY BEING EXTINGUISHED. IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE IT WAS TOTALLY OUT.
IT'S BEEN BADLY DAMAGED
YES. THE HOUSE IS COMPLETELY BURNT.
BUT WE MANAGED TO SAVE THE SAKE CELLAR
AND YOU ?
THE WIND IS GETTING STRONGER AND STRONGER STAY ALERT.
YES
I'M BEGINNING TO GET VERY WORRIED
DAISUKE
THEY SAY THE FIRE HAS ALREADY REACHED FUKURO RIVER
WHAT ?!
TAKESHI, YOU'D BETTER GET GOING!
I'LL JOIN YOU LATER!

TWO HOURS AFTER THE FIRE HAD STARTED
AT 4:50
THE FLAMES HAD REACHED THE RIVERSIDE ACROSS FROM US. ABOUT 400 METERS IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE STOOD AN ENORMOUS COLUMN OF FLAME AND SMOKE.
MAMA.
WHAT WILL WE DO? I'M SCARED
WILL IT COME HERE?
NO. DON'T WORRY
THE FIREMEN WILL PUT IT OUT.
HEY
CAN WE SEE THE FIRE?
TAKESHI
WHERE'S TAKESHI?
AH... SHIGERU!
MY FATHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER, SHIGERU, WHO LIVED NEARBY CAME TO MAKE SURE WE WERE ALRIGHT.
NO!
IT'S DANGEROUS GO DOWN TO THE BARBER SHOP!
I WANT TO SEE IT!


AND
30 MINUTES LATER
THEY LANDED IN SEVERAL PLACES
FIREBALLS THE SIZE OF A FOOTBALLS, CARRIED BY THE WIND STARTED LEAPING TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.
THE BUCKETS OF WATER HAD NO EFFECT ON THE FIRE THAT WAS ALREADY RAGING TOWARDS US
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
WE WON'T GET ANY-WHERE BY DOING THIS!
UAAH !!

KIYOKO, YOU'D BETTER GET OUR VALUABLES
BUAAA!
DADDY!
DADDY STILL HASN'T COME BACK ?
HARUKO
WATCH YOICHI
YES
HIC.
FFFU
FFFU
FFFU
DARLING!
IS EVERY-BODY HERE ?!
DADDY!
HURRY, TAKESHI! THE FIRE IS ALMOST HERE!
YES, I KNOW
WE MUST HURRY
AND THE FIREMEN ?!
THEY STILL HAVEN'T COME?!


THE FIRE SPREAD AT AN ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE SPEED. IT WAS SO FAST AT THAT MOMENT SEVEN HOUSES BURNED DOWN IN ONE MINUTE.
THE FIREFIGHTING FORCES FROM OTHER VILLAGES AND CITIES WEREN'T ENOUGH
IT'S HEAVY OOFH
YA!
YAMA-SHITA
THERE'S NO TIME !
EH?
REALLY ?!
THE FIRE HAS REACHED THE YOKOYAMA'S HOUSE
KIYOKO LEAVE THOSE TRIFLES
STILL
THE CLOTHES AND MATRESSES ARE STILL INSIDE!
NO! THATS ENOUGH! TAKE ONLY OUR VALUABLES AND GET OUT!

CHIRO
WHERE IS CHIRO, HARUKO ?
AH, OH NO!
SHE'S TIED UP IN THE YARD !
TAKESHI !!
AH! DAIS-UKE!
THERE'S TOO MUCH TRAFFIC, I COULDN'T GET THROUGH!
RUN AWAY, NOW! THE BACK OF THE HOUSE IS IN FLAMES!
DAISUKE!
CHIRO!
AH!
YOICHI!
CHIRO!

CHIRO !!
NO, YOICHI !
YOU CAN'T GO IN !
MAMA, CHIRO! CHIRO !!
WHAT ?!
WE CAN'T SAVE HER NOW! FORGET HER!
BUAAAAA!
CHIRO!
YOICHI!
ALRIGHT
I'LL GO GET HER!
AH!
DAISUKE !!

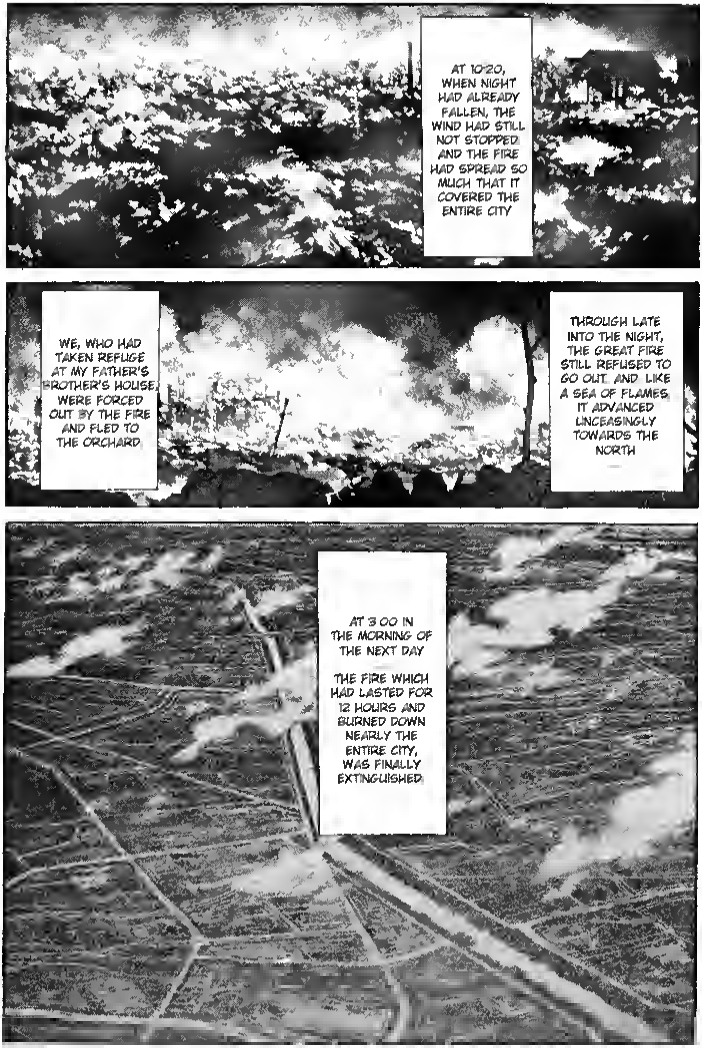
AH!
TAKESHI!
CHIRO!
DAISUKE!
DADDY!
NO, TAKESHI!
AAAAH!
THE FIRE HAS REACHED THE FIRST FLOOR!

DAISUKE!
TAKESHI!
BUAAAA
THE BRAVE SILHOUETTE OF MY UNCLE IS THE ONLY THING THAT PERSISTS VIVIDLY IN MY MEMORY
18

THAT IS ALL
I REMEMBER
YOU SAVING CHIRO.
CHIRO ?
YEAH, THE LITTLE DOG WE HAD AT HOME
OH YEAH? I THINK I REMEMBER THAT
IT WAS A MOMENT OF SUCH NERVOUSNESS THAT I DON'T REMEMBER THE DETAILS TOO WELL, BUT
EHP
WASN'T IT TAKESHI ?
IT WAS CROUCHING UNDER THE DECK AND IT WAS YOUR FATHER THAT TOOK IT OUT
I WAS SUFFOCATING
IF WE HAD STAYED A BIT LONGER, I WOULD'VE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THE SMOKE.
I WAS ON THE EDGE OF DEATH
FOR A DOG HAHAHAHA!
...
...

HAAAH!
CHIRO !!
STOP CRYING !
IT'S EXHAUSTED BUT ALIVE
AAAAH!
WE CAN'T CONTAIN IT!
WATCH OUT!!
RUN !!
THE HOUSE IS GOING TO FALL !!
AH
AAAH
CHIRO
CHIRO!
KUUU

AND AT 6:30 IN THE EVENING
THE MERCILESS FLAMES OF THAT HELL CONSUMED OUR HOUSE
DARLING!
AAAH.
AT THAT TIME, I WAS UNAWARE OF THE PROFOUND SADNESS AND HELPLESSNESS MY PARENTS FELT STANDING BEFORE THE TERRIBLE SCENE OF SEEING THEIR HOUSE BROUGHT DOWN BY THE FLAMES, AND NOTHING THEY COULD DO TO STOP IT.
NOR HAD I THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT THAT THAT FIRE HAD DESTROYED NOT ONLY OUR HOUSE BUT HAD ALSO THE TIES THAT BONDED MY MOTHER AND FATHER.


AT 10:20, WHEN NIGHT HAD ALREADY FALLEN, THE WIND HAD STILL NOT STOPPED AND THE FIRE HAD SPREAD SO MUCH THAT IT COVERED THE ENTIRE CITY
WE, WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE AT MY FATHER'S BROTHER'S HOUSE, WERE FORCED OUT BY THE FIRE AND FLED TO THE ORCHARD.
THROUGH LATE INTO THE NIGHT, THE GREAT FIRE STILL REFUSED TO GO OUT. AND LIKE A SEA OF FLAMES, IT ADVANCED UNCEASINGLY TOWARDS THE NORTH
AT 3:00 IN THE MORNING OF THE NEXT DAY
THE FIRE WHICH HAD LASTED FOR 12 HOURS AND BURNED DOWN NEARLY THE ENTIRE CITY, WAS FINALLY EXTINGUISHED.

CHAPTER 04 :
THE NEW PATH

Scanned by Ink
Translated by ardoRic
Edited by vensu
Proofed by regalatre

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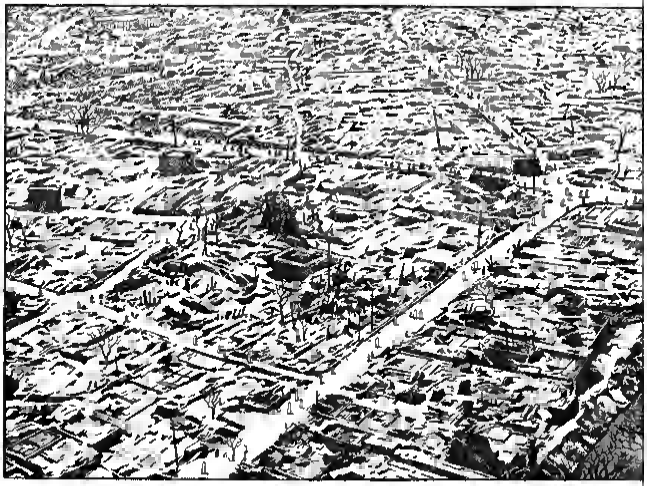
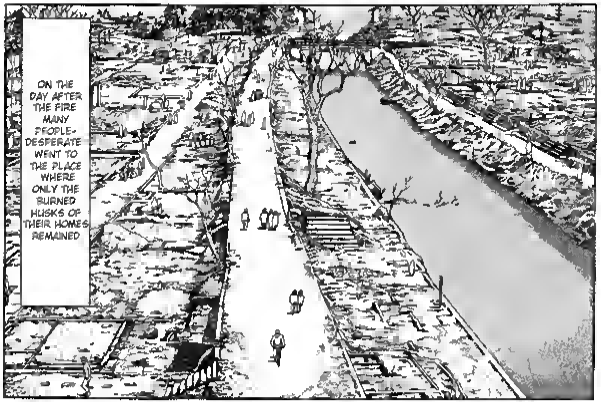
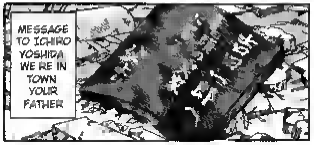
Notes : Thanks go again to Inane

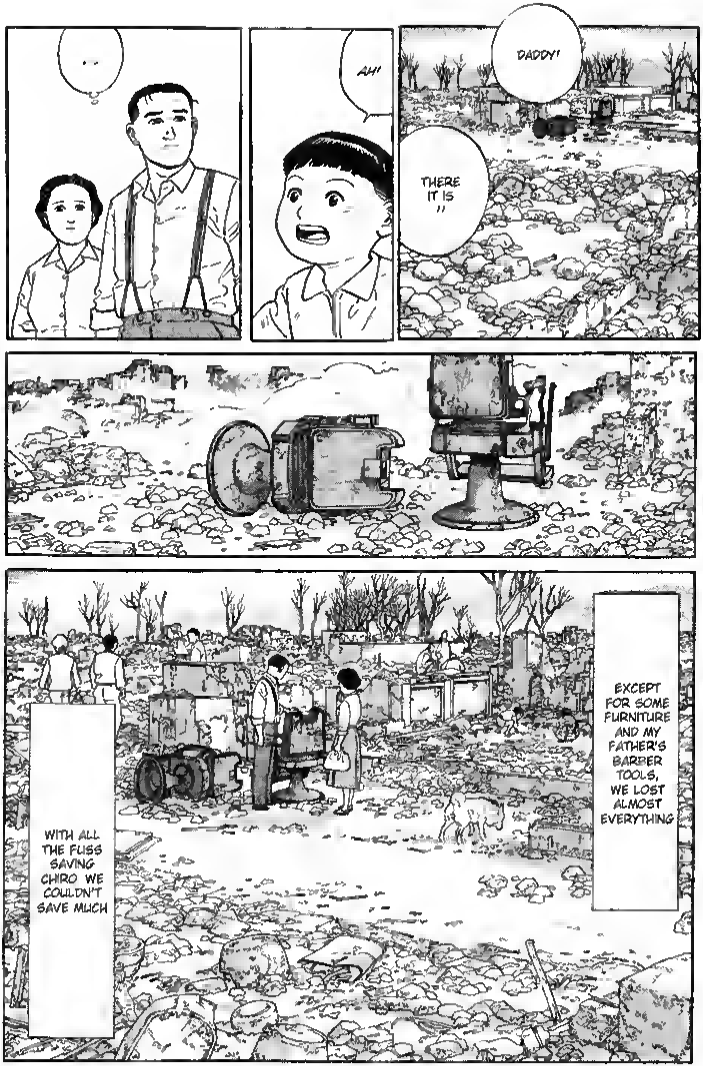


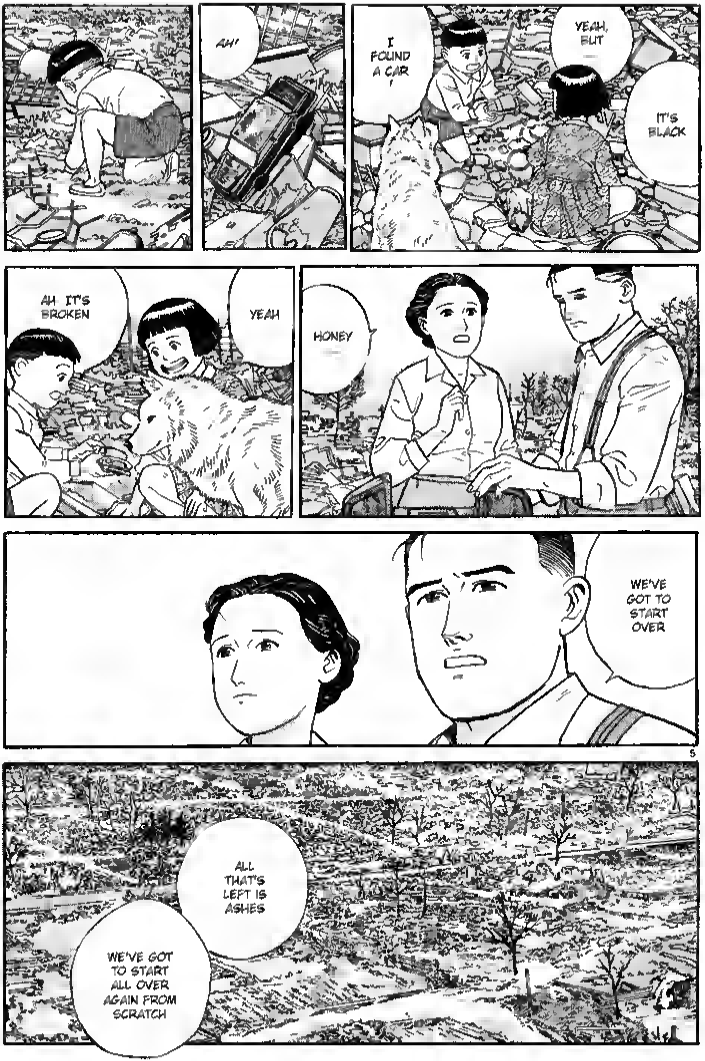

ON THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE MANY PEOPLE- DESPERATE WENT TO THE PLACE WHERE ONLY THE BURNED HUSKS OF THEIR HOMES REMAINED

THERE WERE 3 DEATHS 2 SEVERELY INJURED 3.963 MINOR INJURIES AND 5.268 BURNED DOWN HOUSES
IN ALL THE NUMBER OF AFFECTED PEOPLE BY THE GREAT FIRE OF TOTTORI WAS 20,451
1.13 HECTARES OF LAND WERE BURNED, WHICH REPRESENTS TWO THIRDS OF THE TOWN

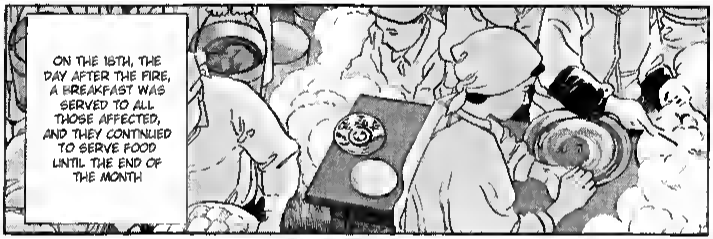

MESSAGE TO ICHIRO YOSHIDA WE RE IN TOWN YOUR FATHER

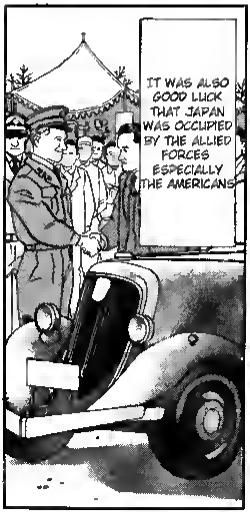
UAH! IT'S ALL BURNED
WHERE EXACTLY OUR HOUSE WAS IS UNKNOWN


...
AH!
DADDY!
THERE IT IS
WITH ALL THE FUSS SAVING CHIRO WE COULDN'T SAVE MUCH
EXCEPT FOR SOME FURNITURE AND MY FATHER'S BARBER TOOLS, WE LOST ALMOST EVERYTHING

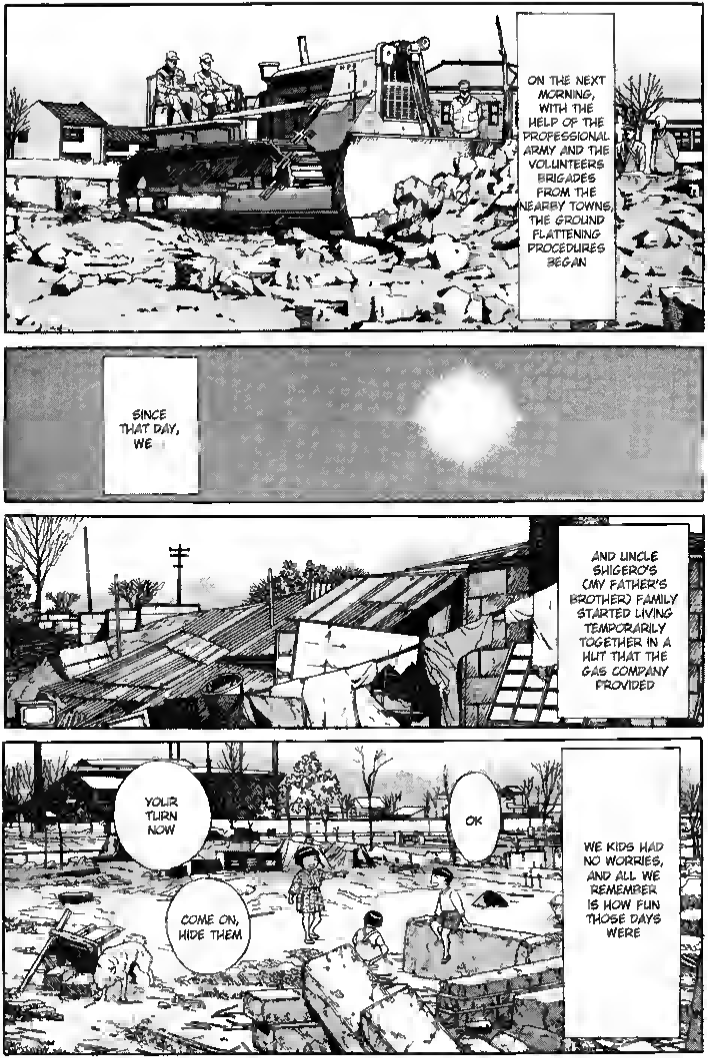

AH!
I FOUND A CAR
YEAH, BUT
IT'S BLACK
AH IT'S BROKEN
YEAH
HONEY
WE'VE GOT TO START OVER
5
ALL THAT'S LEFT IS ASHES
WE'VE GOT TO START ALL OVER AGAIN FROM SCRATCH

AFTER THE GREAT FIRE THE TOWN WAS DECLARED A DISASTER AREA, AND IMMEDIATELY HELP STARTED TO POUR IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS


ON THE 18TH, THE DAY AFTER THE FIRE, A BREAKFAST WAS SERVED TO ALL THOSE AFFECTED, AND THEY CONTINUED TO SERVE FOOD UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH


IT WAS ALSO GOOD LUCK THAT JAPAN WAS OCCUPIED BY THE ALLIED FORCES ESPECIALLY THE AMERICANS

THE AMERICAN TROOPS GAVE A LARGE AMOUNT OF EMERGENCY RATIONS AND SUPPLIES THAT WERE AN EXTRAORDINARY HELP TO ALL AFFECTED PEOPLE


ON THE NEXT MORNING, WITH THE HELP OF THE PROFESSIONAL ARMY AND THE VOLUNTEERS BRIGADES FROM THE NEARBY TOWNS, THE GROUND FLATTENING PROCEDURES BEGAN
SINCE THAT DAY, WE
AND UNCLE SHIGERO'S (MY FATHER'S BROTHER) FAMILY STARTED LIVING TEMPORARILY TOGETHER IN A HUT THAT THE GAS COMPANY PROVIDED
YOUR TURN NOW
OK
COME ON, HIDE THEM
WE KIDS HAD NO WORRIES, AND ALL WE REMEMBER IS HOW FUN THOSE DAYS WERE

WHAT'S THIS?
UAAH
C-7
HOW DO WE EAT THIS?
AH!
LOOK! THERE'S CHOCOLATE
C-7
Beans
DINNER
IN THE RATIONING BOXES THE AMERICAN TROOPS GAVE US THERE WAS RARE FOOD THAT WE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE
UAGH
A CAN OF POTATOES BOILED WITH FAT
IT'S
GREAT
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
YUM
WE FED ON THAT WITHOUT KNOWING EXACTLY HOW TO EAT AND DRINK IT
COFFEE TEA, CRACKERS ETC
I USED TO HAVE POWDERED MILK WITHOUT MIXING IT WITH HOT WATER

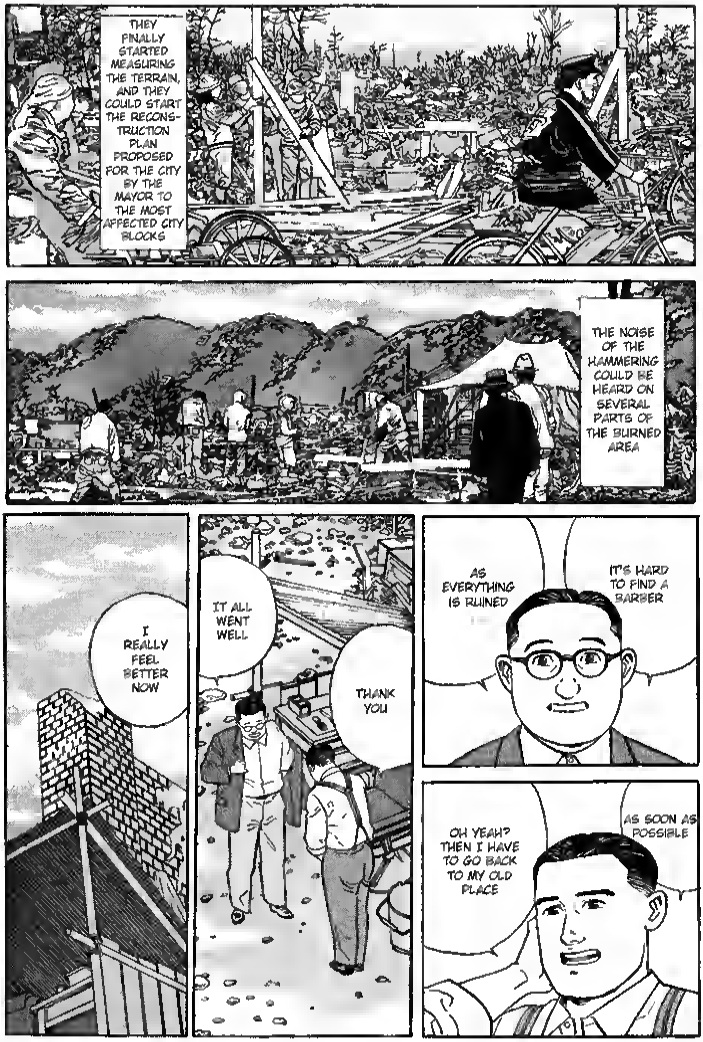
MITSUO
COME, QUICK
TAKE HALF OF THIS
IT'S A SECRET, OK?
YES
WE ATE A COCOA CRACKER THAT I TOOK FROM THE RATION BOX
NHAM NHAM
NHAM NHAM
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT SWEET AND SOUR SMELL
AND THUS PASSED THOSE DAYS, HAPPY ONLY FOR THE KIDS

OPEN SPACE BARBERSHOP
YAMASHITA BARBERSHOP
PRICE: 50 YEN
HELLO
ARE YOU YAMASHITA ?
MY FATHER BUILT A CEILING WITH SOME WOOD HE FOUND AND STARTED WORKING WITH THE ONLY CHAIR HE SAVED FROM THE FIRE
SO YOU'RE HERE HUH ?
YES
BUT I HAVE FEW TOOLS
I CAN ONLY CUT HAIR AND SHAVE SHOULD I CUT YOUR HAIR?
WELL
WHY NOT? I HAVEN'T CUT IT SINCE THE FIRE
THIS IS VERY NICE
AN OPEN SPACE BARBERSHOP
AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T RAIN

AH!
UNCLE DAISUKE !!
HELLO
HOW ARE YOU ?
UAAAAAH HE BRINGS GIFTS!
HEY, KIYOKO
I BROUGHT THESE FOR YOU! I MANAGED TO GET SOME RICE AND GREENS
GOOD
I CAN SEE YOU RESTARTED YOUR BUSINESS, TAKESHI
GOOD IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT
IT'S GOOD TO KEEP IN PRACTICE
OK
I THINK I'LL GET CLEANED UP, TOO
AHAHAHA AHAHAHAH

ONE DAY
I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, SHIGERU
THE COMPANY'S HELPED ME SO MUCH AND HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY
UNCLE SHIGERU'S FAMILY MOVED TO AN OFFICIAL PROTECTION HOUSE OUTSIDE TOWN
TAKE CARE
BYE
BYE
COME VISIT US SOMETIME
AND WHAT DO WE DO ?
WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOREVER
WE'LL GO BACK TO OUR OLD PLACE
THE GROUND DISTRIBUTING TASKS SHOULD BE ENDING NOW
WE'LL BUILD A LITTLE HOUSE
AND START OVER LITTLE BY LITTLE

I CAN IMAGINE HOW MY BROTHER FELT
I'M SURE HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
NEITHER HIM NOR MOST FAMILIES HAD WHAT WE NOW TAKE FOR GRANTED
IT HAD BEEN ALL RUINED
HE COULD ONLY COUNT ON YOU, DAISUKE
YES BUT
I KNOW WHAT TAKESHI FELT AT THAT MOMENT
AND TAKESHI HAD A LOT OF CONFIDENCE
MY PARENTS OPPOSED HIM MARRYING KIYOKO

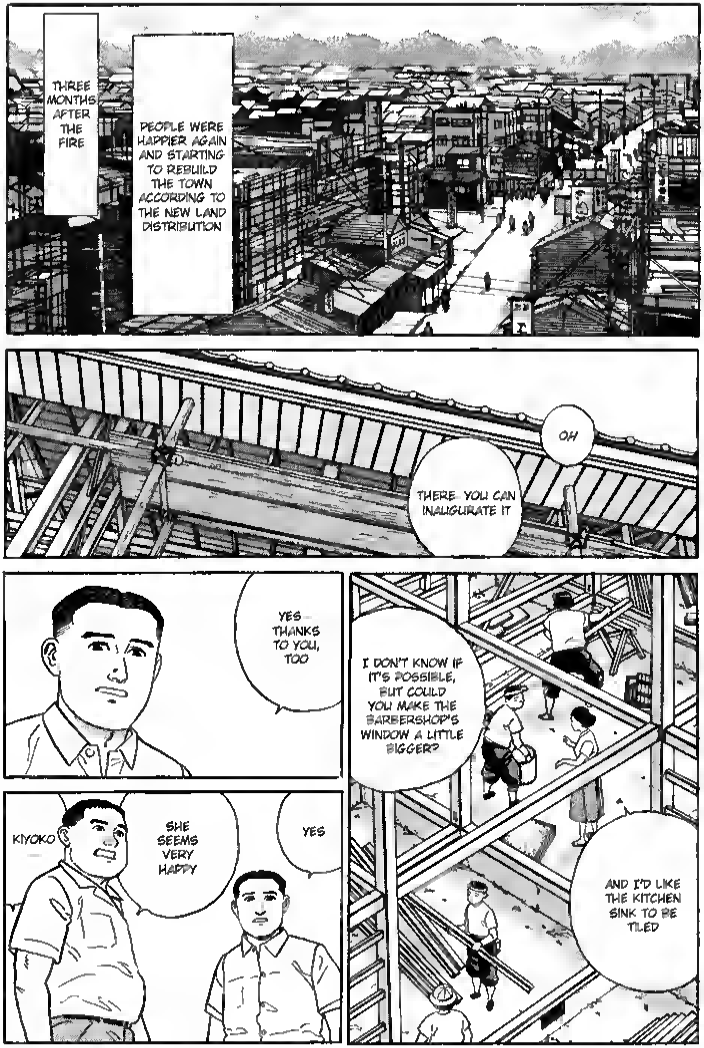

THEY FINALLY STARTED MEASURING THE TERRAIN, AND THEY COULD START THE RECONSTRUCTION PLAN PROPOSED FOR THE CITY BY THE MAYOR TO THE MOST AFFECTED CITY BLOCKS
THE NOISE OF THE HAMMERING COULD BE HEARD ON SEVERAL PARTS OF THE BURNED AREA
I REALLY FEEL BETTER NOW
IT ALL WENT WELL
THANK YOU
AS EVERYTHING IS RUINED
IT'S HARD TO FIND A BARBER
OH YEAH? THEN I HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY OLD PLACE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

HONEY!
MY FATHER STARTED REBUILDING HIS PLACE
AND I ASKED HIM TO GIVE US SOME LUMBER
I ALSO ASKED TO BORROW SOME MONEY
WITH THIS WE CAN START A NEW BARBER-SHOP
WHY ?
WHY DID YOU DO THIS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION ?
EH?
THEY ARE GOING THROUGH HARD TIMES TOO!
DON'T YOU GET IT ?!
CHIRO!
COME!
BUT WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE KIDS, LIVING IN THIS HUT WITH A LEAKY ROOF

I CAN'T TAKE THIS KIND OF LIFE ANY MORE
THEY SAY THEY CAN LEND US MONEY WHY CAN'T WE ACCEPT IT
THIS NEVER
I DON'T WANT IT

I CAME TO GIVE THESE BACK TO YOU
I KNOW THAT YOU ARE ALSO HAVING A HARD TIME
WE'LL TRY TO MANAGE FOR OURSELVES
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING AT A TIME LIKE THIS ?
WE'RE A FAMILY. IF ONE'S IN TROUBLE, WE HAVE TO HELP.
YOU CAN GO WITHOUT NOTHING BUT — WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? POOR THINGS
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR CHILDREN ?
DON'T YOU SEE THAT IF YOU KEEP LIVING THERE, THEY CAN GET SICK?
KIYOKO HAS NEVER BEEN THAT HEALTHY ANYWAY.
...
IF IT CAN BE SOLVED WITH MONEY — ACCEPT IT, MAN. WHY NOT?

I UNDERSTAND YOU
I KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL
THAT'S THE ONLY THING I'M ASKING TO YOU, TAKESHI
WHEN YOU MARRIED HER, PEOPLE SAID YOU DID IT FOR MONEY, AND THAT HURTS
EVEN NOW, THEY WON'T CARE FOR YOUR FEELINGS
I REALLY DON'T LIKE IT
BUT THEY LOVE THEIR DAUGHTER AND GRAND-CHILDREN
AND EVEN IF THEY CAN'T DO MUCH, THEY WANT TO AVOID KIYOKO'S SUFFERING
HEY, TAKESHI. I'M WITH YOU. DON'T FEEL ASHAMED BY THE LOAN
FORGET YOUR PRIDE, PUT YOUR FISTS UP, AND FOR NOW ACCEPT IT THINKING OF YOUR CHILDREN
OK?

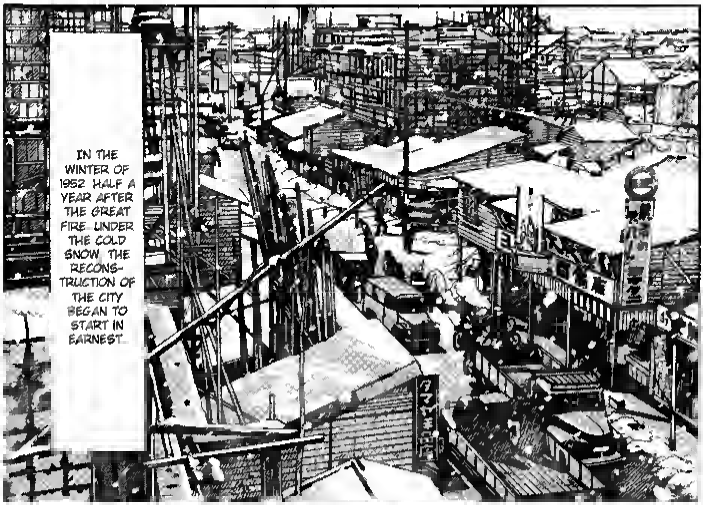

THREE MONTHS AFTER THE FIRE
PEOPLE WERE HAPPIER AGAIN AND STARTING TO REBUILD THE TOWN ACCORDING TO THE NEW LAND DISTRIBUTION
OH
THERE YOU CAN INAUGURATE IT
YES— THANKS TO YOU, TOO
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S POSSIBLE, BUT COULD YOU MAKE THE BARBERSHOP'S WINDOW A LITTLE BIGGER?
AND I'D LIKE THE KITCHEN SINK TO BE TILED
KIYOKO
SHE SEEMS VERY HAPPY
YES

AH NO NO
CHIRO!
COME HERE
DON'T HARASS THE CARPENTERS
WHERE'S MY ROOM, MOMMY ?
YOU'LL SLEEP WITH ME
AND CHIRO ?
OF COURSE
I'LL ASK THE CARPENTERS
WILL WE HAVE A DOGGY HOUSE FOR CHIRO?
UAH GOOD!
CHIRO!
YOU'LL HAVE A HOUSE TOO
BUT... TO US THAT FIRE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES
LOOK
COULD YOU MAKE ANOTHER CLOSET FOR ME HERE?
THERE BEGAN TO OPEN A GAP OF SUFFERING BETWEEN MY PARENTS THAT I HAD NEVER KNOWN ABOUT

TAKESHI WAS AN HONORABLE MAN
A RESPONSIBLE PERSON
AND MORE I'D SAY A LITTLE TOO RESPONSIBLE
YES
HE'D RETURN THE LOAN, EVERY MONTH WITHOUT FAIL
IT WAS THEN THAT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH KIYOKO STARTED TO FALL APART
CERTAINLY TAKESHI WANTED KIYOKO TO UNDERSTAND
THAT HE HAD HIS MANLY PRIDE
WAS POOR, HE WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING ALONE WITH KIYOKO
I KNOW THAT WHEN TAKESHI

I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THIS
NOT OF MY FATHER, OR MY MOTHER, OR MY FAMILY
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM

IF I COULD, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO MY FATHER NOW


IN THE WINTER OF 1952, HALF A YEAR AFTER THE GREAT FIRE, UNDER THE COLD SNOW, THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY BEGAN TO START IN EARNEST.